

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /106 W
-----012490 091539Z /64

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AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1363
US MISSION GENEVA 0498

UNCLAS DAKAR 6667

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SENEGAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. A COLLOQUIUM ON "DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS" HELD
ITS OPENING SESSION THIS MORNING(SEPTEMBER 7) AT THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN DAKAR. THE COLLOQUIUM, CO-SPONSORED
BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS AND THE
SENEGALESE ASSOCIATION FOR JURIDICAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH
IS CO-CHAIRD BY NIALL MACDERMOTT, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION AND ALIOUNE MBENGUE, MINISTER
OF JUSTICE.

2.THE WEEK-LONG COLLOQUIUM (SEPTEMBER 7-12) IS
DIVIDED INTO SIX WORKING COMMISSIONS COVERING THE
FOLLOWING TOPICS: (1) POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT; (2) INTER-
NATIONAL ASPECTS; (3) PARTICIPATION OF THE GENERAL POPULATION;

(4) NON-DISCRIMINATION; (5) THE CITIZEN AND ADMINISTRATION:
AN (6) JUDICIAL POWER.

3. APPROXIMATELY 60 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING 9 WOMEN, REPRESENTING 17 MOSTLY FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THE OAU, ILO AND OTHER UN AGENCIES ARE IN ATTENDANCE. THE COUNTRIES ARE: BENIN, CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE), CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, CAMEROON, GABON, IVORY COAST, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, RWANDA, SENEGAL, TOGO AND UPPER VOLTA. FRANCE AND BELGIUM ARE ALSO REPRESENTED.

4. MR. KEBA MBAYE, PRESIDENT OF THE SENEGALESE SUPREME COURT AND RECENT PRESIDENT OF THE 4TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION GAVE THE OPENING ADDRESS. HIS REMARKS COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS. THE MOST BASIC QUESTION, ACCORDING TO MR. MBAYE, IS WHETHER IT IS IN FACT POSSIBLE TO HAVE DEVELOPMENT, WHILE RESPECTING ALL OF THE "HUMAN RIGHTS" SPECIFIED IN THE UN UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ARGUES THAT IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT A MONSTROUS CHALLENGE FOR ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO THIS CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO MR. MBAYE. SO OFTEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE SEDUCED INTO THE ARMS RACE, HE SAID, SQUANDERING PRECIOUS RESOURCES ON WEAPONS OF WAR. HEY ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAWNS IN AN EAST-WEST WAR OF IDEOLOGY, RESULTING IN A GREATLY UNSTABLE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT -- A PRIME REQUIREMENT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF MOST DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES. COUNTRIES MUST FIRST DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT, AND HOW BEST TO ENSURE HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THAT CONTEXT. COHEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAKAR06667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780367-1191
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From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780990/aaaacwhq.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1510578
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENEGAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, OCON, SG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d2b9de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014